

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0198

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: APRIL 17 PLENARY SESSION

1. THE FINAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE FIFTH ROUND OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD ON APRIL 17 1975. STATEMENTS WERE PRESENTED BY THE SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) AND BY THE US REP.

2. THE US STATEMENT, APPROVED APRIL 16 BY THE AD HOC GROUP, CONTAINED A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND OF THE IMPACT OF POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS ON THAT SITUATION. IN HIS STATEMENT, US REP STRESSED THAT, IN CONSIDERING WHETHER
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POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE, PARTICIPANTS MUST

EVALUATE WHAT THE TOTAL EFFECTS OF SUCH AGREEMENTS WOULD BE ON THEIR SECURITY. THIS REQUIRES CONSIDERATION OF ENDURING LIMITATIONS WHICH AN AGREEMENT WOULD IMPOSE, AS WELL AS CALCULATION OF THE SIZE OF REDUCTIONS TAKEN BY THE TWO SIDES. US REP CONCLUDED THAT ANALYSIS OF BOTH EXISTING EASTERN ADVANTAGES, AND NEW ADVANTAGES EAST WILL OBTAIN FROM ANY AGREEMENT, FULL JUSTIFIED ALLIED DEMANDS FOR ASYMMETRICAL EASTERN REDUCTIONS.

3. THE SOVIET STATEMENT WAS A STANDARD ALBEIT FAIRLY STRONG PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN POSITION. AFTER REVIEWING EASTERN PROPOSALS TO DATE, SOVIET REP CONTRASTED EASTERN FLEXIBILITY WITH THE TOTAL LACK OF WESTERN PROPOSALS IN THE CURRENT ROUND AND CHARGED THAT THIS WESTERN LACK OF FLEXIBILITY AND UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE EASTERN POSITIONS INTO ACCOUNT WAS EVIDENCE OF CURRENT ALLIED UNWILLINGNESS TO SEEK A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.

4. KHLESTOV SAID WESTERN RIGIDITY WAS MANIFESTED MAINLY BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF NON-US DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO ASSUME CONCRETE REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS, BY WESTERN DEMANDS FOR ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS AND BY WESTERN REFUSAL TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES IN REDUCTIONS. SOVIET REP ALSO CRITICIZED WESTERN INSISTENCE ON COLLECTIVE CEILINGS AND ALLEGED THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON CEILING "FUNDAMENTALLY CONTRADICTS THE AGREED AIMS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS." SOVIET REP ALSO CRITICIZED ALLIED ARGUMENTATION ON DISPARITIES AND ON EASTERN GEORGRAPHIC ARGUMENT DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF TRANSFERRING NATO TROOPS FROM OTHER AREAS OF EUROPE TO THE CENTER OF EUROPE.

5. IN CLOSING THE MEETING, KHLESTOV, IN ROLE AS CHAIRMAN, STATED THAT WORK IN FIFTH ROUND HAD HELPED TO CREATE BASIS FOR FUTURE PROGRESS AND HAD NOT BEEN WASTED. KHLESTOV SAID "THERE WILL BE RESULTS," AND DURING THE RECESS, "ALL WILL REFLECT ON WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE ACHIEVED

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IN THE NEXT ROUND." KHLESTOV ANNOUNCED THAT THE RECESS WILL BE FROM APRIL 21 TO MAY 12, AND THAT THE NEXT PLENARY WOULD BE ON MAY 16.

6. THE TEXTS OF THE US AND SOVIET PLENARY STATEMENTS ARE BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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